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LISBON INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

ON EAST TIMOR

We, the undersigned Members of Parliament from 32 countries, meeting in Lisbon, Portugal,

Deeply concerned

that Sri Bintang Pamungkas, a member of the Indonesian Parliament, the Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat, until last month, is threatened with prosecution in an Indonesian court for statements he made during lectures given on a visit to Germany in February this year; and that the government is furthermore seeking to charge him with alleged involvement in a peaceful demonstration in Hanover during a state visit of the Indonesian Head of State.

Deeply concerned, moreover,

that Mr. Pamungkas has been under police investigation since returning to Indonesia in April; and that the Indonesian Attorney-General has issued a ban preventing him from leaving the country for one year.

Deeply dismayed

that Mr. Pamungkas is may soon be charged under the Indonesian Criminal Code for "expressing feelings hostility or hatred towards the Indonesian Government", which is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

Noting that

Mr. Pamungkas, who was invited to attend this Conference, was unable to come because the Indonesian authorities are trying to construct a case against him.

Hereby affirm

that it is the right and duty of members of Parliament to voice criticisms of their governments; and affirm moreover that it is abhorrent for any government to take legal action against a parliamentarian for doing what would be expected of him in any democracy.

We call on the Indonesian Government to halt its investigations of Mr. Pamungkas and cease all efforts to bring charges against him.

Finally, we extend our good wishes to Mr. Pamungkas in his efforts to resist this attack on his legitimate rights and assure him of our full support in his efforts to fight all attempts to restrict the activities of members of Parliament in the legitimate performance of their duties.

Lisbon, 1 June 1995